

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 4 February 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. The following activities were observed at Koethen airfield 25X1

21 and 30 December. There was air activity by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s which approached from the direction of Dessau. 25X1

31 December and 7 January. No air activity was observed, nor were aircraft seen on the landing field. On 7 January at 11:00 AM, the door of the southeastern hangar was opened and a MiG-15 was pushed to the apron in front of the hangar. The aircraft was covered with a tarpaulin and subsequently towed by a truck to the western hangar and parked there. Additional aircraft were seen in the southeastern hangar. The other hangars remained closed.

12 January. A number of individual take-offs were made by MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s which practiced aerobatics. All of the exercises were made in the vicinity of or over the field. The aircraft remained in the air for 20 to 30 minutes. They climbed to an altitude of 2,500 meters, flattened out at 1,000 meters, climbed, and subsequently made a left and a right roll. This exercise was repeated 2 or 4 times. The rolls were occasionally performed with accuracy. ILLEGIB

No changes were observed in the radio and radar installations at the southern edge of the landing field. On 7 January, 2 trucks were parked in front of the western hangar between the revetments.

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6. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Koethen airfield between 4 and 15 January 1955:

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4 January. There was air activity between 1215 and 1430. The snow cover on the runway was not removed but both edges of the runway had been marked with coal dust. At 1338, a two-seater aircraft [] landed at the field. This aircraft seemed to be longer and thicker than the other MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s. Five swept-back jet fighters landed between 1240 and 1315 and several individual take-offs were made between 1350 and 1405. A total of 27 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted. At 1425, an element of 2 MiG-15s was seen in the vicinity of the field from a large distance.

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5 January. No air activity was observed. A row of 14 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s was seen in front of the southeastern hangar and 8 aircraft, [] were parked in front of the northeastern hangar. The swept-back jet fighter with a fuselage which was longer and thicker than the fuselages of other aircraft, which had been observed on 4 January, was parked on the apron in front of the northeastern hangar. It was surrounded by a group of personnel. Its cabin roof was open.

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14 January. Air activity was heard during the noon hours. Between 1635 and 1745, a radio truck was parked between the revetments in the northern corner of the field. Two MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s [] were parked on the dispersal area of the alert aircraft. A sentry was posted near the alert planes. Six soldiers went into the newly built house on the alert site, switched on the light and lit a fire. After some minutes, smoke rose from the two smokestacks. About 3 meters left of the alert aircraft was a small two-wheel cart. Two equipment trucks, 2 canvas-covered trucks and 1 tank truck were also parked in the vicinity.

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15 January. No air activity was observed, nor were radio trucks seen at the field. Six MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s [] were parked in front of the eastern hangars. Maintenance work was being done on the aircraft [] and their jet engines were test run. The fuselages of these 2 aircraft seemed to be longer and thicker when compared with the MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s parked in the vicinity. The cabin roofs of the 2 aircraft **slit open** to the rear. 1

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7. On 14 January, no changes were observed on the radio and radar installations in the southern section of the landing field.
8. A total of 30 to 40 soldiers practiced with several four-barreled AG guns in the area north of the athletic field near the heating plant. Two of the guns were definitely identified on single-wheeled trailer and another gun could not be clearly observed because the view was obstructed. Just left of the 4 barrels was a drum-like device 80 to 90 cm in diameter. 2
9. After the heavy storm on 10 January, some parts of the fence around the field had fallen down giving a better view to the field.
1. Comment. It is believed that Koethen airfield is still occupied by 1 fighter regiment and 1 reconnaissance regiment equipped with MiG-15s. Air activity was intensified during January. There were local flights, flights in elements of two and aerobatics for further training purposes of the flying personnel. A swept-back jet fighter [] which had different constructional features than the previously observed MiG-15, was observed for the first time on 4 January 1955, this information which had previously been reported [] only still requires confirmation before account can be given. Aircraft [] was observed in Luetznitz in 1953. []
2. Comment. All of the motor vehicle [] mentioned are reported for the first time and apparently belong to new air force series.

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3.  Comment. Four-barreled AA guns were observed for the first time at 25X1
Kootenai airfield. Such AA guns had already been observed at Wernaukair airfield
in June 1954.



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